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For Immediate Release  
June 16, 2004

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## **Senate passes Sen. Van Woerkom's bill creating penalties for possession of Molotov cocktails**

**LANSING** – Two bills establishing new sentencing guidelines for individuals possessing Molotov cocktails – dangerous incendiary devices made of breakable containers filled with flammable liquid – passed the Senate Tuesday, said Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores.

“Individuals possessing Molotov cocktails are intending to do grave danger to those around them,” Van Woerkom said. “In order to effectively prosecute individuals who would pose such a danger to those around them through these homemade incendiary devices, Michigan law must be amended.”

Senate Bill 1287 would amend the Michigan penal code to add prosecution of individuals who manufacture, sell, buy, or possess Molotov cocktails without requiring proof of intent to frighten, terrorize, injure or kill a person or damage property.

SB 1288, sponsored by Van Woerkom, would provide sentencing guidelines for the possession of such weapons to be included in the public safety category Class F crimes with a maximum penalty of four years in prison.

The legislation was introduced in response to findings of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan. They found current laws to be ineffective in prosecuting individuals who possess Molotov cocktails.

The bills will now be considered by the House of Representatives.

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